



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA

**PERSONS NOT IN THE
LABOUR FORCE,
AUSTRALIA**

MARCH 1986

CATALOGUE NO. 6220.0

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PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA

MARCH 1986

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Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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CATALOGUE NO. 6220.0

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ON VIATEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key *656# for selected economic, social and demographic statistics on VIATEL.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly Population Survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the March 1986 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their reasons for not actively looking for work and their availability for work.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons not in the labour force.

Definitions

4. Persons not in the labour force are by definition those persons who do not meet the criteria that would enable them to be classified as being in the labour force. To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 or over and be either *employed* or *unemployed*.

5. *Persons not in the labour force*, therefore, include all persons aged 15 and over who are not employed, who want to work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; who do not want to work; or who, through incapacity or infirmity cannot work.

6. The criteria determining those in the labour force are based on actual activity (i.e. working or looking for work) during the survey week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work, reasons for not actively looking for work and availability to start work, are more subjective and are not based on respondents' actual activity. Hence, the measurement of these criteria is affected by the respondents' own interpretation of the concepts used. Individual respondent's interpretation is affected by such factors as the respondent's work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

7. *Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force* are those who were not in the labour force in the survey week, wanted to work and:

- (a) were actively looking for work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

8. *Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work* are those who:

- (a) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had taken *active steps* to find work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, had not taken *active steps* to find work; or
- (c) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job?*'.

9. *Discouraged jobseekers* are those persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but whose main reason for not taking active steps to find work was that they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered to be too young or too old by employers; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work; or no jobs at all.

10. *Active steps taken to find work* comprise writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

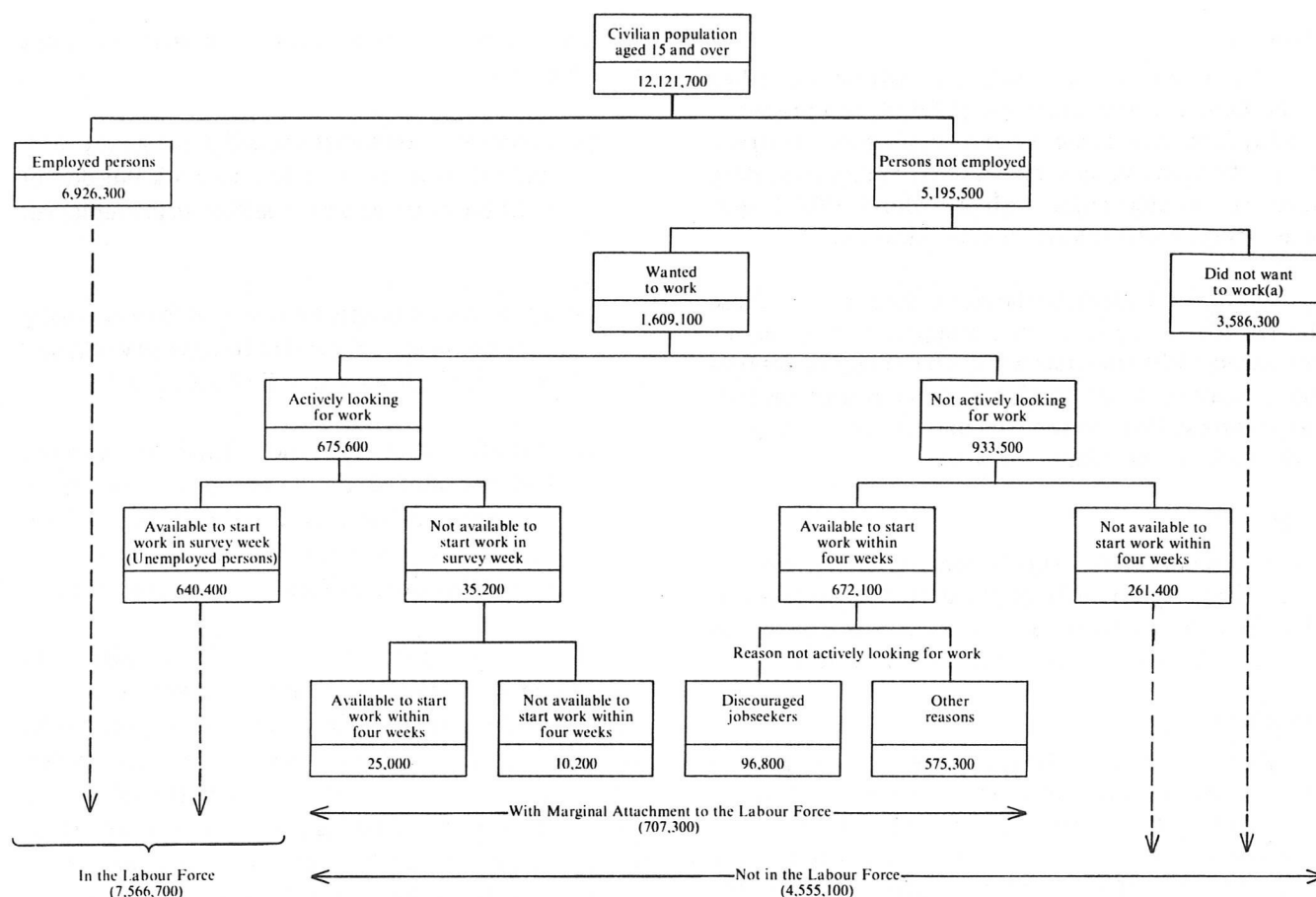
11. A *job* is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

12. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

13. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

14. The various groups of persons either in the labour force or not in the labour force, including those marginally attached to the labour force, are shown schematically in the diagram on the following page.

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE TO PERSONS IN OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, MARCH 1986



(a) Includes institutionalised, boarding school pupils and persons permanently unable to work.

Results of the survey

15. Estimates of persons not in the labour force are also published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

16. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the Labour Force Survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the March issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

17. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

18. Additional tables available but not included in this publication are listed on page 19. A preliminary publication (6219.0) containing a summary of the results of the survey was issued on 14 May 1986.

19. Results of similar surveys, which have been conducted each March and September since March 1979, and also in May 1977 and November 1975, have been given in previous issues of this publication.

20. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in September 1986.

Discontinuities in the series

21. New or amended concepts were introduced in the September 1983 survey, causing a break in series. These modifications included the addition of certain groups of persons excluded from previous *Persons Not in the Labour Force* surveys and several alterations to the order and wording of questions used in the survey. These modifications are described in paragraphs 22 to 27.

22. Only those respondents who reported that they were available to start work within the next four weeks were asked their reasons for not actively looking for work. Hence persons classified as discouraged jobseekers in this survey must have been available to start work within four weeks. This availability criterion was not applied to the definition of discouraged jobseekers in surveys prior to September 1983. The application of this criterion removes the previous anomaly that persons were classified as discouraged jobseekers regardless of whether or not they were available to start work in the near future.

23. Persons not in the labour force aged 65 and over were added to the September 1983 survey and may be classified as being discouraged jobseekers or as otherwise having marginal attachment to the labour force.

24. Persons belonging to two other groups were added to the survey in September 1983:

- (a) persons who were actively looking for work but who were unable to start in survey week for reasons other than their own temporary illness or injury. These persons are classified as having marginal attachment to the labour force, but not as discouraged jobseekers; and
- (b) persons who had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work. Of these persons, those who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks are classified as having marginal attachment to the labour force, but not as discouraged jobseekers.

25. Respondents not in the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks were asked their *main* reason for not actively looking for work to determine, among other things, whether the respondents should be classified as discouraged jobseekers. In surveys prior to September 1983, the *main* reason was not asked, and respondents were classified as discouraged jobseekers or otherwise according to the 'highest ranked reason' given for not actively looking for work.

26. An extra reason for not actively looking for work ('no jobs at all') was added to the discouraged jobseeker list.

27. A change was made to the ordering of the questions. The responses to some questions may differ from responses in previous surveys because of this change to the question order and the subjective nature of some of the questions.

Reliability of the estimates

28. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in the Technical Note.

- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

29. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Labour Force Experience, Australia, during the year ending February 1986, Preliminary (6205.0)—issued annually

Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0) — issued three-yearly

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1985 (6222.0) — issued annually

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) — issued irregularly (\$1.70, \$2.40 incl. postage)

30. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 28 above.
- . . not applicable.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

31. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

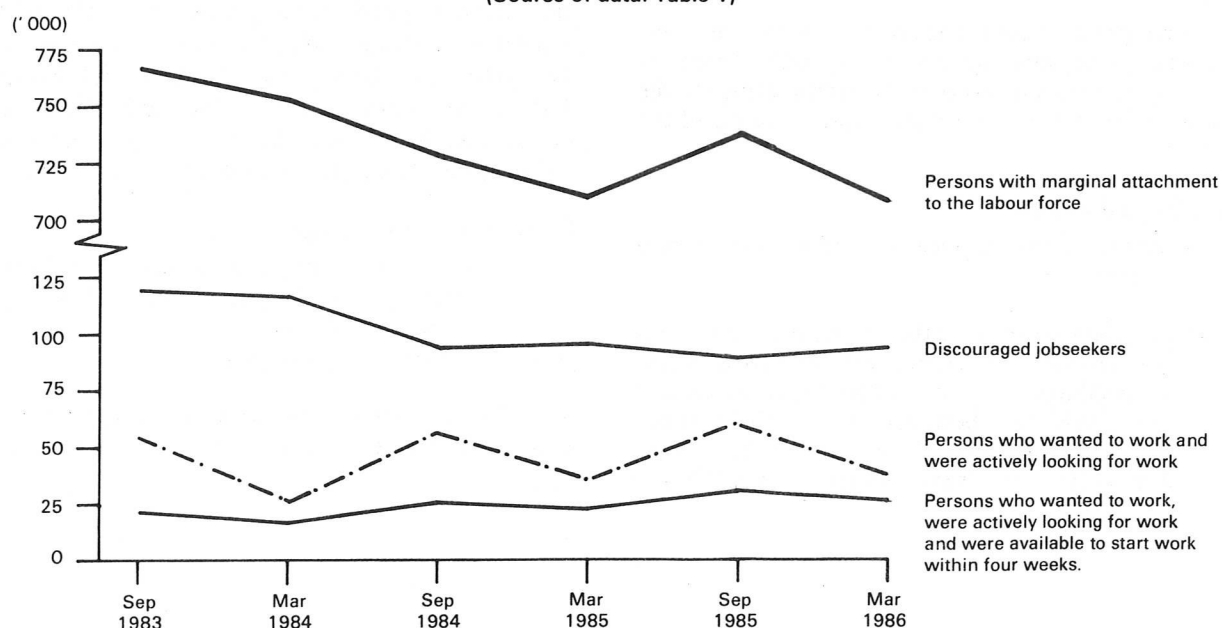
In March 1986 37.6 per cent (4,555,100 persons) of the civilian population aged 15 and over was not in the labour force. 15.5 per cent (707,300 persons) of persons not in the labour force were considered to have marginal attachment to the labour force. Although the number of persons not in the labour force had increased between September 1983 and March 1986, the number of persons with marginal attachment had decreased over the same period.

The number of discouraged jobseekers in March 1986 (96,800) had decreased from 118,200 in September 1983. The most commonly reported main reason for not actively looking for work by discouraged jobseekers in March 1986 was that they were considered too young or too old by employers (38.8 per cent). Only 13.8 per cent of discouraged jobseekers reported that there were no jobs at all, while it was one of the most commonly reported main reasons for not actively looking for work amongst such persons in September 1983 (reported by 33.6 per cent).

The proportion of discouraged jobseekers in the age group 25 to 44 had decreased from 41.6 per cent (49,200 persons) in September 1983 to 31.8 per cent (30,800 persons) in March 1986, while the proportions of discouraged jobseekers aged 45 and over in September 1983 and March 1986 were 47.5 per cent (56,100 persons) and 54.5 per cent (52,800 persons) respectively.

The graph below illustrates a seasonal pattern in the number of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were actively looking for work. The September 1983 to March 1986 surveys indicate that most of this seasonal change occurs in the group of persons who were actively looking for work but were not available to start work within four weeks. In September 1983 there were 31,900 and in both September 1984 and 1985 there were 30,200 persons who were actively looking for work but were not available to start work within four weeks, while in March 1984, 1985 and 1986 there were only 7,000, 9,900 and 10,200 such persons respectively. A possible explanation for this pattern relates to leavers from educational institutions. It is likely that by September many students would already be actively looking for work but would not be available to start work within four weeks, and by March the following year most would have either entered the labour force or have returned to studies, leaving a significantly smaller number of persons who were actively looking for work but were not available to start work within four weeks.

DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, SEPTEMBER 1983 TO MARCH 1986
(Source of data: Table 1)



Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force

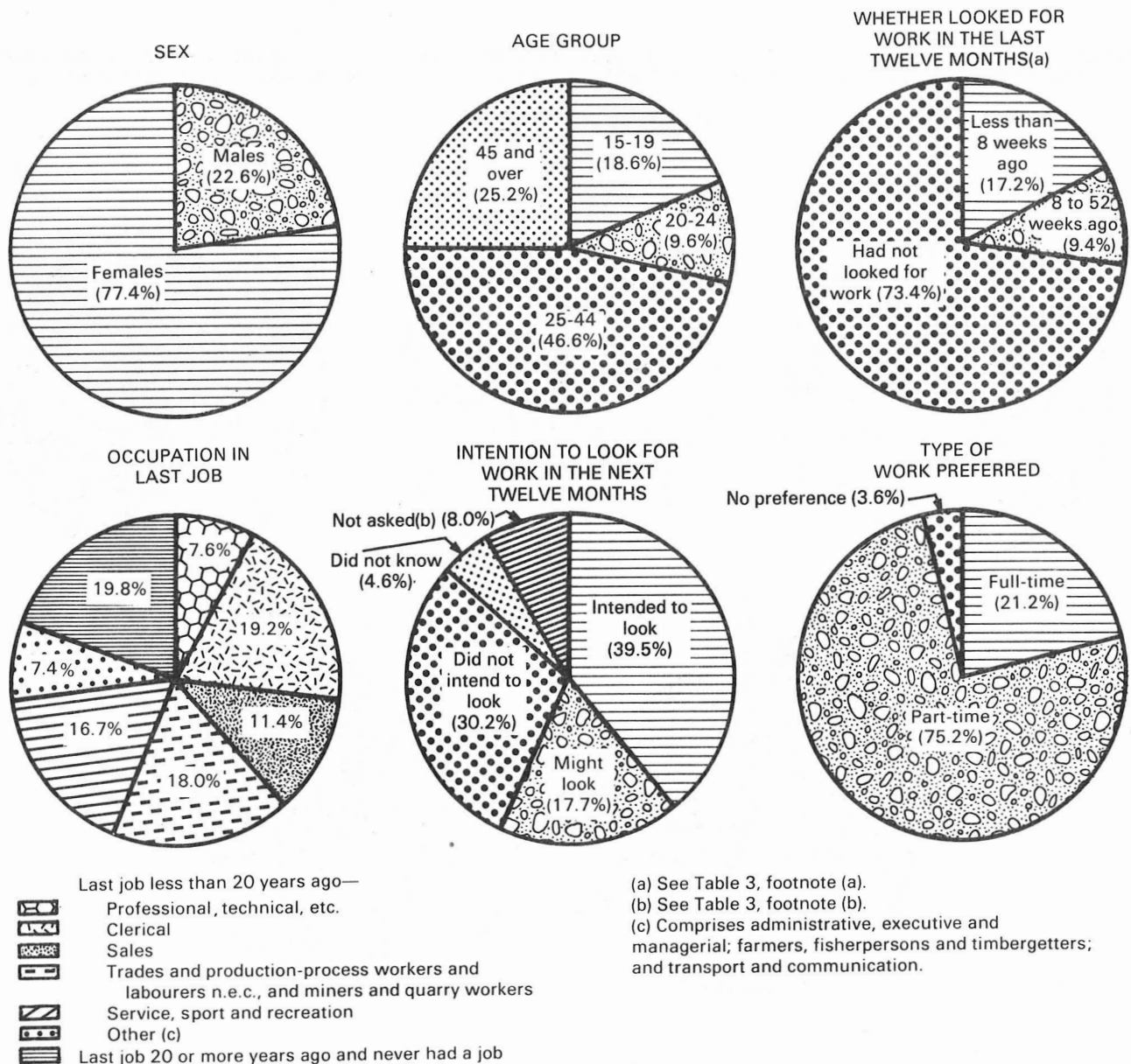
The majority of persons not in the labour force who were considered to have marginal attachment to the labour force in March 1986 were females (547,400 or 77.4 per cent). Almost half these persons (329,400 or 46.6 per cent) were aged 25 to 44. 54.6 per cent of females with marginal attachment were aged 25 to 44, while only 19.2 per cent of males were in this age group. Almost half the males (46.8 per cent) were aged 15 to 24.

Only 26.6 per cent of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force reported that they had looked for work in the last twelve months. However, most of these (64.6 per cent) had looked for work less than eight weeks ago.

The most commonly reported occupations in last job were clerical (135,800 persons), trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers (127,000 persons) and service, sport and recreation (118,200 persons).

The proportion of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who intended to look for work in the next twelve months in March 1986 (39.5 per cent) had increased since that of September 1983 (36.6 per cent). Similarly the proportion who reported that they might look for work in the next twelve months had increased to 17.7 per cent in March 1986 from 14.7 per cent in September 1983. A preference for part-time work was reported by three-quarters of persons with marginal attachment in March 1986.

**DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE :
SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1986**
(Source of data : Table 3)



53,100 males and 349,700 females with marginal attachment to the labour force were married at March 1986. 73.3 per cent of these wives had children aged 0 to 14 present, compared with only 28.8 per cent of these husbands.

27.9 per cent of males and 12.1 per cent of females with marginal attachment had never had a job. Of the 596,500 persons who had had a job, only 159,600 or 26.8 per cent had had their last job within the last twelve months. 140,000 females reported that they had left their last job due to pregnancy or to have children. The most commonly reported reasons for leaving last job amongst males were that they were retrenched or made redundant and own ill health or injury.

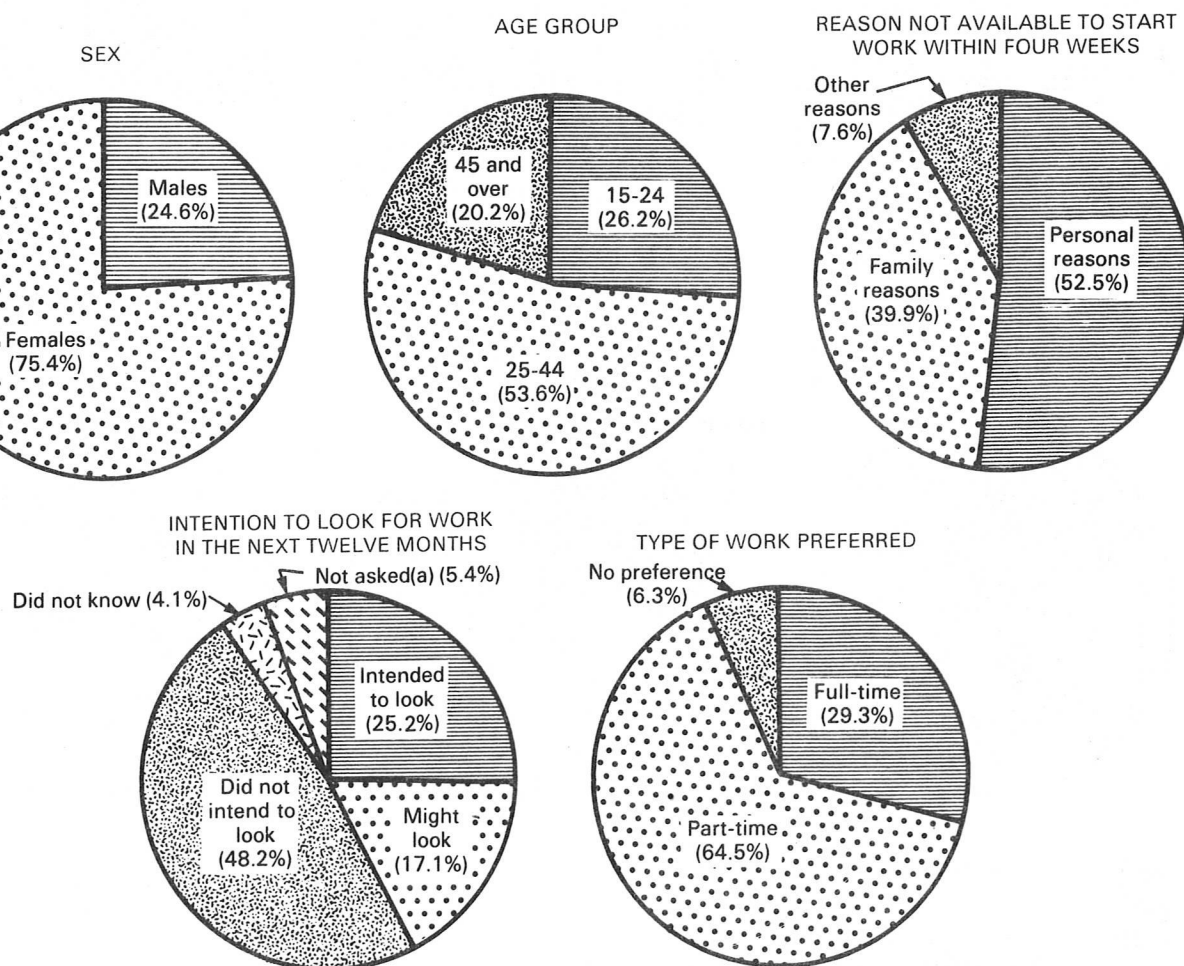
Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks

In March 1986, 261,400 persons or 5.7 per cent of persons not in the labour force wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks. Approximately three-quarters of these persons were females and more than half (53.6 per cent) were aged 25 to 44.

137,200 persons or 52.5 per cent were not available to start work within the next four weeks due to personal reasons, including 80,300 who reported that they were ill or injured. A further 104,400 persons or 39.9 per cent reported that they were not available to start work due to family reasons, including 78,600 persons whose children were too young or who preferred to look after their children.

Almost half these persons did not intend to look for work in the next twelve months. 64.5 per cent would have preferred to work part-time.

DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1986
(Source of data : Tables 19 and 20)



(a) See Table 20, footnote (a).

**TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER : LABOUR FORCE STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1983 TO MARCH 1986
(' 000)**

	Sept. 1983	March 1984	Sept. 1984	March 1985	Sept. 1985	March 1986
Civilian population aged 15 and over	11,585.5	11,718.5	11,808.0	11,897.3	11,998.5	12,121.7
Employed	6,350.0	6,504.2	6,572.9	6,634.5	6,783.9	6,926.3
Unemployed	718.7	701.0	621.3	671.7	587.7	640.4
Persons not in the labour force	4,516.8	4,513.2	4,613.8	4,591.1	4,626.9	4,555.1
With marginal attachment to the labour force	765.6	750.0	726.3	708.3	739.7	707.3
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	53.8	25.7	56.4	32.1	60.4	35.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	21.9	18.7	26.2	22.2	30.2	25.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	31.9	7.0	30.2	9.9	30.2	10.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	711.8	724.3	669.9	676.3	679.4	672.1
Discouraged jobseekers	118.2	116.1	93.7	96.0	89.0	96.8
Other	593.6	608.2	576.2	580.3	590.4	575.3
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	3,751.2	3,763.3	3,887.6	3,882.8	3,887.1	3,847.8
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	244.2	224.0	264.1	222.7	265.2	261.4
Did not want to work	3,225.4	3,275.2	3,365.6	3,399.1	3,380.1	3,340.8
Permanently unable to work	77.3	52.3	56.5	54.4	47.8	51.1
Institutionalised(a) and boarding school pupils	204.3	211.8	201.4	206.6	194.1	194.4

(a) Includes some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1983 TO MARCH 1986
(' 000)**

	Sept. 1983	March 1984	Sept. 1984	March 1985	Sept. 1985	March 1986
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	53.8	25.7	56.4	32.1	60.4	35.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	21.9	18.7	26.2	22.2	30.2	25.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	31.9	7.0	30.2	9.9	30.2	10.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	711.8	724.3	669.9	676.3	679.4	672.1
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work</i>						
Had a job to go to	11.4	10.3	8.8	9.1	11.2	11.7
Personal reasons	243.8	265.5	241.8	263.5	256.2	251.0
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	61.9	62.2	60.6	65.8	69.1	63.0
Attending an educational institution	82.9	104.8	93.4	104.9	102.3	111.1
Had no need to work	50.5	49.5	41.5	44.7	41.3	38.2
Give others a chance	11.2	11.0	9.3	9.1	6.2	4.5
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	22.1	21.7	17.4	24.2	19.6	19.6
Moved house/holidays	15.2	16.3	19.6	14.7	17.8	14.7
Family reasons	277.2	262.5	263.1	238.2	248.4	241.4
Ill health of other than self	13.4	10.1	15.2	11.0	14.8	12.9
Unable to find suitable childcare	222.4	212.1	76.3	73.6	72.5	70.1
Children too young/preferred to look after children			132.9	115.0	126.1	117.5
Other family considerations	41.4	40.3	38.7	38.6	34.9	40.9
Discouraged jobseekers	118.2	116.1	93.7	96.0	89.0	96.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	29.0	34.5	26.9	31.0	32.2	37.6
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*	*	5.7	4.7	5.0	5.2
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	8.4	10.0	8.9	11.2	8.9	11.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	38.2	40.7	29.0	33.0	26.0	29.1
No jobs at all	39.7	27.1	23.2	16.1	16.8	13.4
No jobs in suitable hours	15.1	22.9	19.3	17.7	18.4	17.5
Other reasons	27.2	28.2	29.5	29.7	36.4	34.6
Did not know	8.1	9.5	4.2	10.3	8.0	9.0
Not asked(a)	10.9	9.3	9.5	11.9	12.0	10.1
Total	765.6	750.0	726.3	708.3	739.7	707.3

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:
SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1983 TO MARCH 1986**
(' 000)

	<i>Sept. 1983</i>	<i>March 1984</i>	<i>Sept. 1984</i>	<i>March 1985</i>	<i>Sept. 1985</i>	<i>March 1986</i>
Age group—						
15-19	127.2	123.2	131.3	120.9	138.3	131.6
20-24	75.6	80.3	77.6	76.7	75.7	68.1
25-34	221.0	217.3	203.4	189.1	203.8	187.6
35-44	157.9	147.6	146.4	149.2	146.1	141.8
45-54	81.9	87.5	84.2	84.0	82.6	84.3
55-59	37.6	37.1	35.2	35.0	39.8	38.5
60-64	34.0	28.3	24.7	26.3	24.2	27.3
65 and over	30.6	28.6	23.4	27.0	29.1	27.9
Occupation in last job—						
Last job less than 20 years ago	619.9	611.1	583.8	572.7	585.9	567.5
Professional, technical, etc.	60.9	63.8	53.2	56.5	59.4	53.8
Administrative, executive and managerial	15.0	16.1	17.0	13.4	16.7	16.9
Clerical	157.6	151.6	141.9	147.4	137.6	135.8
Sales	85.3	92.9	89.6	84.7	83.2	80.8
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	22.4	21.9	21.5	21.4	21.7	21.1
Transport and communication	18.9	17.7	16.4	16.9	17.4	13.9
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	145.3	130.2	128.9	127.4	130.5	127.0
Service, sport and recreation	114.3	116.9	115.3	104.9	119.5	118.2
Last job 20 or more years ago	30.4	29.6	25.9	33.9	26.1	29.0
Had never had a job	115.3	109.3	116.7	101.7	127.7	110.8
Whether looked for work in the last twelve months(a)—						
Had looked for work	215.2	193.8	207.8	176.9	214.0	188.4
Less than 5 weeks ago	96.3	75.4	95.5	75.6	100.6	78.9
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	44.6	48.6	46.7	41.8	39.3	42.8
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	27.9	32.1	25.7	25.7	30.9	29.9
13 to 52 weeks ago	46.4	37.7	39.9	33.8	43.1	36.8
Had not looked for work	550.4	556.1	518.6	531.5	525.7	518.9
Intention to look for work in the next twelve months—						
Intended to look	280.2	301.3	272.9	266.1	275.6	279.6
Might look	112.6	129.1	116.1	130.3	134.8	125.1
Did not intend to look	263.0	243.4	229.6	222.8	208.5	213.4
Did not know	33.8	30.9	33.0	36.2	37.2	32.3
Not asked(b)	76.0	45.3	74.8	53.0	83.6	56.9
Type of work preferred—						
Full-time	189.4	164.1	176.9	162.6	179.7	149.9
Part-time	543.7	561.2	529.2	522.6	531.1	531.6
No preference	32.4	24.6	20.2	23.2	28.9	25.8
Total	765.6	750.0	726.3	708.3	739.7	707.3
Males	162.8	154.2	163.0	153.3	166.8	159.9
Females	602.8	595.8	563.3	555.1	573.0	547.4

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job. (b) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

**TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : AGE,
SEPTEMBER 1983 TO MARCH 1986**
(' 000)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Sept. 1983</i>	<i>March 1984</i>	<i>Sept. 1984</i>	<i>March 1985</i>	<i>Sept. 1985</i>	<i>March 1986</i>
15-19	6.6	10.0	8.4	8.1	5.3	7.2
20-24	6.3	6.7	5.1	5.1	5.4	6.0
25-34	22.5	19.3	13.8	15.6	14.0	12.7
35-44	26.7	21.2	19.1	17.8	17.2	18.1
45-54	22.6	27.2	19.9	18.4	17.9	18.4
55-59	9.0	10.5	10.1	11.5	11.5	11.9
60-64	11.4	8.9	6.6	8.7	5.7	7.8
65 and over	13.1	12.3	10.7	10.7	12.0	14.7
Total	118.2	116.1	93.7	96.0	89.0	96.8

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : OCCUPATION IN LAST JOB AND MAIN ACTIVITY, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

Occupation in last job	Main activity									Total
	Housewife/ home duties	Attending an educational institution	Retired/ voluntarily inactive	Unpaid leave	Own illness/ injury; own disability/ handicap	Looking after ill/ disabled person	Travel/ moving house	Worked in unpaid voluntary job	Other	
MALES										
Last job less than 20 years ago	40.7	76.9	696.1	*	173.9	9.0	11.1	14.7	15.7	1,040.1
Professional, technical, etc.	*	8.6	66.1	*	4.1	*	*	*	*	89.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	4.3	*	69.2	*	8.2	*	*	*	*	87.6
Clerical	*	10.5	61.5	*	7.4	*	*	*	*	87.7
Sales	*	13.2	40.6	*	7.6	*	*	*	*	66.1
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	*	6.1	61.0	*	18.2	*	*	*	*	92.9
Transport and communication	*	*	50.0	*	13.5	*	*	*	*	70.2
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	19.5	27.2	296.6	*	99.5	4.4	4.0	*	8.1	464.1
Service, sport and recreation	*	9.0	51.1	*	15.4	*	*	*	*	82.5
Last job 20 or more years ago	*	*	52.7	*	12.2	*	*	*	*	70.4
Had never had a job	*	197.7	4.9	*	11.5	*	*	*	*	218.0
Total	45.7	274.6	753.7	*	197.5	9.6	11.7	16.0	17.4	1,328.5
FEMALES										
Last job less than 20 years ago	1,527.7	73.3	100.7	*	52.4	17.5	11.1	25.9	8.3	1,818.7
Professional, technical, etc.	161.2	8.9	15.2	*	4.2	*	*	*	*	199.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	42.1	*	6.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	55.0
Clerical	410.1	21.8	25.9	*	9.4	*	*	8.1	*	483.9
Sales	225.8	20.0	13.0	*	5.4	*	*	*	*	274.9
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	46.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	56.1
Transport and communication	28.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	32.8
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	267.3	6.5	11.7	*	14.5	*	*	*	*	305.6
Service, sport and recreation	345.5	12.2	23.5	*	14.3	5.0	*	6.6	*	411.4
Last job 20 or more years ago	630.7	*	66.2	*	27.8	5.6	*	10.8	*	743.6
Had never had a job	234.6	187.8	22.3	*	17.9	*	*	*	*	469.8
Total	2,393.0	261.9	189.2	*	98.1	25.1	11.7	40.2	11.3	3,032.2
PERSONS										
Last job less than 20 years ago	1,568.5	150.2	796.8	*	226.2	26.5	22.1	40.6	24.0	2,858.8
Professional, technical, etc.	164.5	17.4	81.2	*	8.3	*	*	6.3	*	288.2
Administrative, executive and managerial	46.4	*	76.1	*	10.2	*	*	*	*	142.6
Clerical	413.4	32.3	87.4	*	16.8	4.1	*	10.3	*	571.5
Sales	227.4	33.2	53.6	*	12.9	*	4.2	4.0	*	341.0
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	50.1	8.0	64.4	*	19.7	*	*	*	*	149.0
Transport and communication	30.8	*	51.2	*	14.5	*	*	*	*	103.0
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	286.8	33.7	308.2	*	114.1	6.0	5.3	5.5	8.8	769.6
Service, sport and recreation	349.0	21.3	74.6	*	29.7	6.1	*	7.3	*	493.9
Last job 20 or more years ago	634.4	*	119.0	*	40.0	6.0	*	11.5	*	814.0
Had never had a job	235.9	385.5	27.2	*	29.4	*	*	4.0	*	687.8
Total	2,438.8	536.5	942.9	*	295.6	34.7	23.4	56.2	28.7	4,360.6

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO HAD HAD A JOB : REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB AND TIME SINCE LAST JOB, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

Reason for leaving last job	Time since last job						Total
	Under 6 months	6 and under 12 months	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 20 years	20 years or more
MALES							
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	11.4	5.6	13.8	13.8	16.6	7.2	69.6
Seasonal or temporary job	17.4	6.2	6.9	*	5.0	*	38.7
Returned to studies	33.9	4.2	7.9	*	*	*	48.3
Retired/did not want to work any longer	15.3	17.1	68.5	85.4	171.4	155.4	555.3
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	6.6	*	4.4	*	*	*	15.9
Own ill health or injury	10.6	16.0	54.8	50.9	85.1	66.6	306.4
To get married	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
To have children	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	4.8	*	4.9	*	12.2
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	6.0	*	5.1	5.0	*	*	20.3
Sold business/farm	5.1	*	6.0	4.4	4.8	*	22.0
Other reasons	4.1	*	5.5	*	*	*	13.9
Not asked(a)	6.6	*	*	*	*	*	6.6
Total	116.4	57.6	165.7	166.7	293.3	240.4	1,110.5
FEMALES							
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	11.9	7.7	24.1	25.2	32.9	31.6	150.1
Seasonal or temporary job	41.6	15.7	33.2	13.7	17.0	15.7	148.5
Returned to studies	28.6	*	9.6	*	*	*	44.2
Retired/did not want to work any longer	14.5	15.3	49.1	50.2	106.3	133.7	470.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	8.5	5.2	11.2	6.4	10.5	8.0	51.0
Own ill health or injury	12.2	14.4	33.8	28.6	55.4	58.4	237.5
To get married	*	*	6.5	8.8	22.8	50.4	380.9
Pregnancy/to have children	26.2	28.7	72.7	75.3	117.4	105.9	512.4
To look after family, house or someone else	8.3	7.8	21.9	17.0	34.4	40.4	203.9
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	11.9	7.9	24.2	20.7	33.4	37.2	156.2
Sold business/farm	4.8	4.2	7.8	7.4	12.2	11.3	56.6
Other reasons	4.2	*	7.0	5.9	7.7	5.1	40.6
Not asked(a)	17.6	*	*	*	*	*	17.6
Total	192.2	114.1	301.2	261.3	451.7	498.1	2,562.3
PERSONS							
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	23.3	13.4	37.9	39.0	49.4	38.8	219.7
Seasonal or temporary job	59.0	21.9	40.1	16.5	20.5	17.2	187.2
Returned to studies	62.5	6.0	17.5	*	*	*	92.5
Retired/did not want to work any longer	29.9	32.4	117.6	135.7	277.7	289.1	1,026.0
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	15.1	7.6	14.1	8.0	11.8	8.9	66.9
Own ill health or injury	22.8	30.4	88.6	79.6	140.5	124.9	543.9
To get married	4.1	*	6.5	8.8	22.8	50.4	381.6
Pregnancy/to have children	26.2	28.7	72.7	75.3	117.7	105.9	512.6
To look after family, house or someone else	9.3	8.6	23.9	19.8	38.0	41.7	216.1
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	18.0	10.0	26.8	23.2	38.4	38.7	176.5
Sold business/farm	7.8	6.4	10.7	10.5	16.5	16.1	78.6
Other reasons	8.3	4.6	10.4	8.0	9.3	6.5	54.5
Not asked(a)	24.2	*	*	*	*	*	24.2
Total	308.6	171.7	466.9	428.0	745.0	738.6	3,672.8

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO HAD HAD A JOB : REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB, STATUS OF WORKER IN LAST JOB AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS IN LAST JOB, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Last job less than 20 years ago								
	Status of worker in last job				Full-time or part-time status in last job				
Reason for leaving last job	Employers	Self-employed	Wage and salary earners	Unpaid family helpers	Full-time	Part-time	Varied/ did not know	Last job 20 or more years ago	Total
MALES									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	*	65.6	*	58.9	9.0	*	*	69.6
Seasonal or temporary job	*	*	35.2	*	19.7	17.6	*	*	38.7
Returned to studies	*	*	47.3	*	34.0	14.0	*	*	48.3
Retired/did not want to work any longer	26.6	49.2	437.1	*	483.1	28.4	*	42.1	555.3
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	14.1	*	11.4	4.1	*	*	15.9
Own ill health or injury	12.3	28.8	243.0	*	264.4	17.6	*	22.4	306.4
To get married	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
To have children	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	9.1	*	9.8	*	*	*	12.2
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	*	16.2	*	14.8	4.7	*	*	20.3
Sold business/farm	6.8	8.4	4.9	*	19.3	*	*	*	22.0
Other reasons	*	*	11.1	*	11.3	*	*	*	13.9
Not asked(a)	*	*	6.6	*	5.9	*	*	*	6.6
Total	49.5	99.6	890.1	*	932.7	100.9	6.5	70.4	1,110.5
FEMALES									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	*	129.7	*	72.7	59.3	*	16.7	150.1
Seasonal or temporary job	*	*	133.0	*	43.4	89.6	*	11.6	148.5
Returned to studies	*	*	43.9	*	22.2	21.4	*	*	44.2
Retired/did not want to work any longer	16.9	26.6	324.7	*	231.9	135.2	*	101.5	470.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	47.9	*	24.3	25.2	*	*	51.0
Own ill health or injury	*	8.8	190.8	*	130.3	71.7	*	34.7	237.5
To get married	*	*	90.3	*	81.1	10.6	*	380.9	473.1
Pregnancy/to have children	*	*	420.0	*	329.6	94.5	*	86.1	512.4
To look after family, house or someone else	*	6.4	121.5	*	72.0	55.7	*	74.0	203.9
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	4.9	128.6	*	74.9	58.4	*	20.8	156.2
Sold business/farm	15.8	18.5	12.9	*	30.4	15.9	*	9.0	56.6
Other reasons	*	5.2	26.6	*	17.1	15.7	*	7.1	40.6
Not asked(a)	*	*	17.6	*	10.3	6.7	*	*	17.6
Total	46.9	81.5	1,687.3	*	1,140.2	659.9	18.7	743.6	2,562.3
PERSONS									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	*	195.3	*	131.6	68.3	*	17.9	219.7
Seasonal or temporary job	*	4.9	168.2	*	63.1	107.2	4.8	12.0	187.2
Returned to studies	*	*	91.2	*	56.2	35.3	*	*	92.5
Retired/did not want to work any longer	43.5	75.7	761.8	*	715.0	163.6	*	143.7	1,026.0
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	61.9	*	35.8	29.3	*	*	66.9
Own ill health or injury	15.3	37.6	433.7	*	394.7	89.3	*	57.1	543.9
To get married	*	*	90.7	*	81.5	10.6	*	381.6	474.2
Pregnancy/to have children	*	*	420.1	*	329.9	94.5	*	86.1	512.6
To look after family, house or someone else	*	8.3	130.6	*	81.8	57.2	*	74.7	216.1
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	7.5	144.8	*	89.7	63.1	*	21.5	176.5
Sold business/farm	22.6	27.0	17.9	*	49.7	17.0	*	10.6	78.6
Other reasons	*	7.5	37.1	*	27.7	18.1	*	7.4	54.5
Not asked(a)	*	*	24.2	*	16.2	7.2	*	*	24.2
Total	96.4	181.1	2,577.4	*	2,072.9	760.7	25.2	814.0	3,672.8

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK : INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND AGE, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Age group								
Intention to look for work in the next twelve months	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
MALES									
Intended to look	45.7	8.9	12.5	10.8	9.4	5.6	5.7		98.6
Might look	11.0	*	4.4	4.9	5.6		7.5		35.4
Did not intend to look	17.2	*	6.7		4.9	4.4	9.8	13.3	57.7
Did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.6
Not asked(a)	4.3	5.4	5.6	*	4.6		*	*	24.0
Total	80.8	17.8	27.3	22.7	22.7	14.0	18.5	20.4	224.3
FEMALES									
Intended to look	52.0	28.2	78.0	55.3	23.6	5.9	*	*	246.9
Might look	12.4	15.4	40.6	36.9	18.0	5.4	4.0	*	134.5
Did not intend to look	16.2	26.1	104.8	57.6	37.3	17.8	10.1	11.6	281.5
Did not know	6.2		8.9	9.0	7.5	*	*	*	34.6
Not asked(a)	6.0	7.1	19.6	8.8	4.6		*	*	47.0
Total	88.8	80.7	251.8	167.6	89.0	33.4	18.3	14.8	744.4
PERSONS									
Intended to look	97.6	37.1	90.4	66.2	33.0	11.5	5.4	4.2	345.4
Might look	23.4	17.2	45.0	41.8	21.6	7.4	7.6	5.7	169.8
Did not intend to look	33.4	27.5	108.0	61.1	42.2	22.2	19.9	24.9	339.2
Did not know	4.9	4.2	10.5	9.8	9.0	*	*	*	43.2
Not asked(a)	10.3	12.6	25.2	11.3	5.8	*	*	*	71.1
Total	169.7	98.5	279.1	190.3	111.7	47.4	36.8	35.2	968.7

(a) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 9. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK : TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED AND AGE, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Age group								
Type of work preferred	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
MALES									
Full-time	34.1	11.0	21.0	15.6	14.8	5.9	4.8	*	110.3
Part-time	45.2	6.5	4.6	5.9	5.3	6.7	10.9	16.0	101.1
No preference	*	*	*	*	4.0		4.0		12.8
Total	80.8	17.8	27.3	22.7	22.7	14.0	18.5	20.4	224.3
FEMALES									
Full-time	31.3	18.9	26.3	22.7	9.4	4.1	*	*	116.2
Part-time	55.8	57.6	217.4	136.7	74.8	28.0	15.6	13.1	599.0
No preference	*	4.3	8.1	8.1	4.7	*	*	*	29.3
Total	88.8	80.7	251.8	167.6	89.0	33.4	18.3	14.8	744.4
PERSONS									
Full-time	65.3	29.9	47.3	38.3	24.2	10.0	7.1	4.4	226.5
Part-time	101.0	64.1	222.0	142.6	80.2	34.7	26.5	29.1	700.1
No preference	*	4.6	9.8	9.3	7.3	*	5.0		42.1
Total	169.7	98.5	279.1	190.3	111.7	47.4	36.8	35.2	968.7

TABLE 10. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					Type of work preferred			Total
	Intended to look	Might look	Did not intend to look	Did not know	Not asked(a)	Full-time	Part-time	No preference	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	..	..	..	..	35.2	16.1	18.3	*	35.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	..	25.0	10.8	13.8	*	25.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	..	10.2	5.3	4.4	*	10.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	279.6	125.1	213.4	32.3	21.8	133.8	513.3	24.9	672.1
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work</i>									
Had a job to go to	..	..	..	..	11.7	4.9	6.6	*	11.7
Personal reasons	125.8	43.7	71.3	10.2	..	64.2	180.5	6.3	251.0
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	24.8	14.3	20.3	*	..	16.6	42.9	*	63.0
Attending an educational institution	74.1	14.1	20.3	*	..	35.9	74.4	*	111.1
Had no need to work	10.8	6.9	18.9	*	..	*	35.5	*	38.2
Give others a chance	*	*	*	*	..	*	*	*	4.5
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	*	6.3	8.4	*	..	*	15.6	*	19.6
Moved house/holidays	13.2	*	*	*	..	5.8	8.7	*	14.7
Family reasons	76.2	52.7	99.1	13.3	..	25.3	208.3	7.8	241.4
Ill health of other than self	4.0	4.6	*	*	..	*	10.1	*	12.9
Unable to find suitable childcare	18.6	12.3	35.9	*	..	7.7	59.7	*	70.1
Children too young/preferred to look after children	38.5	27.0	45.5	6.5	..	11.3	102.7	*	117.5
Other family considerations	15.1	8.9	14.4	*	..	*	35.9	*	40.9
Discouraged jobseekers	43.3	16.4	31.8	5.4	..	23.4	66.9	6.5	96.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	10.7	7.0	18.8	*	..	7.5	27.3	*	37.6
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*	*	*	*	..	*	*	*	5.2
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	5.0	*	*	*	..	*	7.8	*	11.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	15.4	6.0	6.1	*	..	7.1	19.7	*	29.1
No jobs at all	8.7	*	*	*	..	*	9.5	*	13.4
No jobs in suitable hours	9.1	4.4	*	*	..	*	16.6	*	17.5
Other reasons	21.9	5.8	5.7	*	..	9.9	22.2	*	34.6
Did not know	*	*	*	*	..	*	6.9	*	9.0
Not asked(b)	..	..	..	..	10.1	*	5.3	*	10.1
Total	279.6	125.1	213.4	32.3	56.9	149.9	531.6	25.8	707.3

(a) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons as defined in footnote(b). (b) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 11. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE: TIME SINCE LAST JOB AND WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS(a), MARCH 1986
(' 000)

Time since last job	Had looked for work in the last 12 months				Total	Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	Total
	Less than 5 weeks ago	5 and less than 8 weeks ago	8 and less than 13 weeks ago	13 to 52 weeks ago			
Had had a job	68.5	31.6	20.2	27.9	148.2	448.3	596.5
Under 12 months	32.1	11.1	5.0	*	51.8	107.8	159.6
Under 6 months	21.7	8.2	*	*	33.7	77.0	110.7
6 and under 12 months	10.4	*	*	*	18.1	30.8	48.9
1 and under 3 years	13.3	6.2	6.1	8.6	34.2	77.7	111.9
3 and under 5 years	7.1	5.5	7.1 {	6.2	22.4	62.9	85.4
5 and under 10 years	9.4	5.6		4.5	23.0	99.0	121.9
10 and under 20 years	4.9	*		4.8	13.8	74.9	88.7
20 years or more	*	*	*	*	*	26.1	29.0
Had never had a job	10.4	11.2	9.6	8.9	40.2	70.6	110.8
Total	78.9	42.8	29.9	36.8	188.4	518.9	707.3

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job.

TABLE 12. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS(a) AND FAMILY STATUS, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

Whether looked for work in the last twelve months(a)	Family status									
	Member of a family									
	Husband or wife			Not- married family head	Child of family head	Other relative of family head	Total	Not a member of a family	Not family coded	Total
	With children aged 0-14 present	Without children aged 0-14 present	Total							
MALES										
Had looked for work	7.6	11.4	18.9	*	28.6	*	50.5	5.9	*	59.5
Less than 5 weeks ago	4.6	5.5	10.1	*	9.9	*	21.5	*	*	26.1
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	*	*	*	*	8.1	*	11.3	*	*	13.1
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	*	*	*	*	6.4	*	9.0	*	*	10.4
13 to 52 weeks ago	*	*	*	*	4.2	*	8.7	*	*	9.9
Had not looked for work	7.7	26.4	34.1	*	37.0	*	77.4	13.7	9.2	100.3
Total	15.3	37.8	53.1	5.5	65.6	*	128.0	19.6	12.3	159.9
FEMALES										
Had looked for work	48.5	21.1	69.6	17.1	24.8	*	113.0	8.2	7.7	128.9
Less than 5 weeks ago	22.5	8.8	31.3	6.2	8.2	*	46.6	*	*	52.8
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	9.2	4.3	13.5	4.0	7.1	*	24.5	*	*	29.7
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	6.8	*	10.0	*	5.3	*	17.4	*	*	19.5
13 to 52 weeks ago	10.0	4.9	14.9	5.0	4.2	*	24.4	*	*	26.9
Had not looked for work	208.0	72.1	280.1	59.1	36.0	*	378.8	21.0	18.7	418.5
Total	256.5	93.2	349.7	76.1	60.8	5.1	491.7	29.2	26.4	547.4
PERSONS										
Had looked for work	56.1	32.5	88.6	18.9	53.4	*	163.5	14.1	10.8	188.4
Less than 5 weeks ago	27.0	14.3	41.4	7.2	18.1	*	68.2	5.4	5.4	78.9
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	10.1	5.8	15.9	4.2	15.2	*	35.8	4.8	*	42.8
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	7.5	4.9	12.5	*	11.8	*	26.4	*	*	29.9
13 to 52 weeks ago	11.3	7.4	18.8	5.5	8.4	*	33.1	*	*	36.8
Had not looked for work	215.7	98.5	314.2	62.7	73.0	6.3	456.2	34.8	27.9	518.9
Total	271.8	131.0	402.8	81.6	126.4	8.9	619.7	48.8	38.7	707.3

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job.

TABLE 13. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED AND FAMILY STATUS, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

Type of work preferred	Family status									
	Member of a family									
	Husband or wife			Not-married family head	Child of family head	Other relative of family head	Total	Not a member of a family	Not family coded	Total
	With children aged 0-14 present	Without children aged 0-14 present	Total							
MALES										
Full-time	10.9	14.4	25.3	*	28.6	*	58.4	7.8	6.3	72.4
Part-time	*	19.9	22.8	*	36.2	*	63.5	11.1	5.8	80.5
No preference	*	*	4.9	*	*	*	6.1	*	*	6.9
Total	15.3	37.8	53.1	5.5	65.6	*	128.0	19.6	12.3	159.9
FEMALES										
Full-time	18.7	10.1	28.8	15.5	20.8	*	66.5	5.9	5.0	77.5
Part-time	229.9	78.7	308.6	57.6	38.7	*	408.5	22.3	20.3	451.1
No preference	7.8	4.5	12.3	*	*	*	16.6	*	*	18.8
Total	256.5	93.2	349.7	76.1	60.8	5.1	491.7	29.2	26.4	547.4
PERSONS										
Full-time	29.6	24.5	54.1	17.9	49.4	*	124.9	13.8	11.2	149.9
Part-time	232.8	98.6	331.4	60.5	74.9	5.3	472.1	33.4	26.1	531.6
No preference	9.3	7.9	17.2	*	*	*	22.7	*	*	25.8
Total	271.8	131.0	402.8	81.6	126.4	8.9	619.7	48.8	38.7	707.3

TABLE 14. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Persons who wanted to work and were actively looking for work		Total	Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks			Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force		
	Were available to start work within four weeks	Were not available to start work within four weeks		Discouraged jobseekers	Other	Total	Males	Females	Persons
Age group—									
15-19	*	*	6.9	7.2	117.5	124.7	61.7	69.9	131.6
20-24	5.7	*	8.2	6.0	53.9	60.0	13.1	55.0	68.1
25-34	9.7	*	11.7	12.7	163.2	175.9	17.9	169.8	187.6
35-44	*	*	4.0	18.1	119.7	137.8	12.8	128.9	141.8
45-54	*	*	*	18.4	63.7	82.1	14.2	70.1	84.3
55-59	*	*	*	11.9	25.8	37.7	10.1	28.4	38.5
60-64	*	*	*	7.8	18.2	26.0	13.7	13.6	27.3
65 and over	*	*	*	14.7	13.2	27.9	16.3	11.6	27.9
Family status—									
Member of a family	20.8	7.8	28.6	79.1	512.0	591.1	128.0	491.7	619.7
Husband or wife	12.9	*	16.3	59.3	327.1	386.4	53.1	349.7	402.8
With children aged 0-14 present	9.6	*	12.3	22.0	237.5	259.5	15.3	256.5	271.8
Without children aged 0-14 present	*	*	4.1	37.3	89.6	126.9	37.8	93.2	131.0
Not-married family head	*	*	*	9.9	68.6	78.5	5.5	76.1	81.6
With children aged 0-14 present	*	*	*	5.8	59.0	64.8	*	63.8	67.3
Without children aged 0-14 present	*	*	*	4.1	9.6	13.7	*	12.4	14.4
Child of family head	4.9	*	8.1	8.1	110.2	118.3	65.6	60.8	126.4
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	6.1	7.9	*	5.1	8.9
Not a member of a family	*	*	*	12.3	32.8	45.1	19.6	29.2	48.8
Living alone	*	*	*	10.4	18.3	28.7	10.8	19.2	30.0
Not living alone	*	*	*	*	14.5	16.4	8.8	10.0	18.9
Not family coded	*	*	*	5.4	30.5	35.9	12.3	26.4	38.7
Type of work preferred—									
Full-time	10.8	5.3	16.1	23.4	110.4	133.8	72.4	77.5	149.9
Part-time	13.8	4.4	18.3	66.9	446.5	513.3	80.5	451.1	531.6
No preference	*	*	*	6.5	18.4	24.9	6.9	18.8	25.8
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months (a)—									
Had looked for work	25.0	10.2	35.2	33.6	119.6	153.2	59.5	128.9	188.4
Less than 5 weeks ago	25.0	10.2	35.2	12.1	31.7	43.7	26.1	52.8	78.9
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	..	..	..	6.5	36.3	42.8	13.1	29.7	42.8
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	..	..	..	5.9	24.0	29.9	10.4	19.5	29.9
13 to 52 weeks ago	..	..	..	9.2	27.6	36.8	9.9	26.9	36.8
Had not looked for work	..	..	..	63.3	455.6	518.9	100.3	418.5	518.9
Time since last job—									
Had had a job	22.9	8.0	30.9	85.7	479.9	565.6	115.3	481.2	596.5
Under 12 months	13.0	4.3	17.3	14.2	128.1	142.3	54.1	105.5	159.6
Under 6 months	9.0	*	10.6	7.3	92.7	100.0	41.3	69.4	110.7
6 and under 12 months	4.1*	*	6.7	6.9	35.4	42.2	12.9	36.1	48.9
1 and under 3 years	*	*	5.2	13.2	93.5	106.7	22.8	89.1	111.9
3 and under 5 years	*	*	*	13.1	69.0	82.0	14.4	71.0	85.4
5 and under 10 years	4.0	*	4.3	20.6	97.0	117.6	16.0	105.9	121.9
10 and under 20 years	*	*	*	15.9	72.3	88.1	7.2	81.5	88.7
20 years or more	*	*	*	8.8	20.0	28.8	*	28.2	29.0
Had never had a job	*	*	4.3	11.1	95.4	106.5	44.6	66.2	110.8
Reason for leaving last job—									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	4.5	*	5.6	17.7	47.1	64.8	22.4	48.1	70.4
Seasonal or temporary job	*	*	5.0	9.5	53.2	62.7	13.4	54.3	67.6
Returned to studies	*	*	*	*	21.8	22.2	12.6	12.2	24.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	*	9.5	25.9	35.4	14.2	21.5	35.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	6.3	23.7	30.0	8.6	24.3	32.8
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	6.4	45.5	51.9	22.4	32.2	54.5
To get married	*	*	*	7.9	30.2	38.1	*	38.8	38.8
Pregnancy/to have children	*	*	4.5	8.4	127.1	135.5	*	140.0	140.0
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	*	4.3	31.1	35.5	*	33.2	36.4
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	*	4.3	9.4	40.9	50.3	6.9	47.5	54.5
Sold business/farm	*	*	*	4.9	9.2	14.1	4.5	10.3	14.8
Other reasons	*	*	*	*	14.1	15.2	*	12.2	16.0
Had never had a job	*	*	4.3	11.1	95.4	106.5	44.6	66.2	110.8
Not asked(b)	..	..	..	..	10.1	10.1	*	6.7	10.1
Total	25.0	10.2	35.2	96.8	575.3	672.1	159.9	547.4	707.3

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job. (b) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 15. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND AGE, MARCH 1986
(* 000)

	Age group								
Main reason for not actively looking for work	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
MALES									
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Personal reasons(a)	50.2	5.6	8.5	5.7	6.8	5.6	8.2	7.8	98.5
Own ill health, disability	*	*	4.2	4.3	4.6	*	4.3	*	26.7
Attending an educational institution	47.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	53.8
Had no need to work	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.6	*	7.2
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.8
Moved house/holidays	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.5
Family reasons	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Discouraged jobseekers(a)	4.1	*	*	*	5.4	*	*	7.7	24.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.9	13.4
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.1
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other reasons	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.8
Did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not asked(b)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total(a)	59.1	9.4	13.8	11.7	12.7	9.9	12.9	16.3	145.8
FEMALES									
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.3
Personal reasons	49.9	10.6	20.1	28.0	25.1	9.9	5.7	*	152.5
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	*	6.2	9.4	11.1	*	*	*	36.3
Attending an educational institution	46.6	5.1	5.2	*	*	*	*	*	57.3
Had no need to work	*	*	5.3	8.6	9.3	*	*	*	31.0
Give others a chance	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	*	*	6.7	*	4.0	*	*	*	14.8
Moved house/holidays	*	*	4.9	*	*	*	*	*	9.2
Family reasons	7.5	29.6	111.8	62.2	18.6	4.9	*	*	237.8
Ill health of other than self	*	*	6.2	*	4.6	*	*	*	12.4
Unable to find suitable childcare	*	11.4	44.3	10.4	*	*	*	*	69.4
Children too young/preferred to look after children	*	16.4	57.4	32.4	5.7	*	*	*	116.3
Other family considerations	*	*	7.7	15.7	9.3	*	*	*	39.8
Discouraged jobseekers	*	5.4	10.7	16.9	15.9	9.1	4.0	7.0	71.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	*	5.3	6.7	*	6.4	24.3
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.2
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*	*	4.7	*	*	*	*	*	9.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	*	5.4	7.8	4.2	*	*	*	22.9
No jobs at all	*	*	5.2	*	*	*	*	*	10.7
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	6.2	6.1	*	*	*	*	16.4
Other reasons	4.3	*	5.7	6.9	5.9	*	*	*	24.8
Did not know	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	7.8
Not asked(b)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.7
Total	65.7	50.6	162.1	126.1	69.4	27.8	13.1	11.6	526.3
PERSONS									
Had a job to go to	*	*	6.9	*	*	*	*	*	11.7
Personal reasons	100.2	16.2	28.6	33.7	31.9	15.5	13.9	11.1	251.0
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	4.0	10.5	13.7	15.8	6.8	6.0	4.3	63.0
Attending an educational institution	94.2	8.5	5.4	*	*	*	*	*	111.1
Had no need to work	*	*	5.6	8.7	9.9	4.9	6.8	*	38.2
Give others a chance	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.5
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	*	*	6.9	*	5.3	*	5.7	*	19.6
Moved house/holidays	*	*	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	14.7
Family reasons	7.6	29.6	112.7	63.6	19.4	4.9	*	*	241.4
Ill health of other than self	*	*	6.5	*	4.9	*	*	*	12.9
Unable to find suitable childcare	*	11.4	44.6	10.6	*	*	*	*	70.1
Children too young/preferred to look after children	*	16.4	57.8	33.0	5.7	*	*	*	117.5
Other family considerations	*	*	7.7	16.0	10.0	*	*	*	40.9
Discouraged jobseekers	7.2	6.0	12.7	18.1	18.4	11.9	7.8	14.7	96.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	*	6.5	8.2	5.7	13.3	37.6
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.2
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*	*	5.8	*	*	*	*	*	11.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	6.6	*	6.1	8.2	5.0	*	*	*	29.1
No jobs at all	*	*	5.8	*	4.2	*	*	*	13.4
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	6.3	6.1	*	*	*	*	17.5
Other reasons	4.9	*	7.0	8.7	7.8	*	*	*	34.6
Did not know	*	*	4.5	*	*	*	*	*	9.0
Not asked(b)	*	*	4.9	*	*	*	*	*	10.1
Total	124.7	60.0	175.9	137.8	82.1	37.7	26.0	27.9	672.1

(a) Includes reasons not shown separately. (b) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 16. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS : WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS(a) AND INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					
Whether looked for work in the last twelve months(a)	Intended to look	Might look	Did not intend to look	Did not know	Not asked(b)	Total
MALES						
Had looked for work	35.1	4.7	*	*	*	45.5
Less than 5 weeks ago	10.3	*	*	*	*	12.1
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	10.8	*	*	*	*	13.1
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	7.1	*	*	*	*	10.4
13 to 52 weeks ago	7.0	*	*	*	*	9.9
Had not looked for work	42.7	18.4	29.5	4.2	5.6	100.3
Total	77.8	23.0	33.4	4.8	6.8	145.8
FEMALES						
Had looked for work	77.1	16.9	8.3	*	*	107.7
Less than 5 weeks ago	26.2	*	*	*	*	31.7
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	22.5	4.2	*	*	*	29.7
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	12.7	*	*	*	*	19.5
13 to 52 weeks ago	15.6	6.5	*	*	*	26.9
Had not looked for work	124.7	85.1	171.6	25.1	12.0	418.5
Total	201.8	102.0	179.9	27.5	15.0	526.3
PERSONS						
Had looked for work	112.2	21.6	12.2	*	4.2	153.2
Less than 5 weeks ago	36.5	*	*	*	*	43.7
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	33.3	5.0	} 5.7 {	*	*	42.8
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	19.8	5.2		*	*	29.9
13 to 52 weeks ago	22.6	7.7		*	*	36.8
Had not looked for work	167.4	103.5	201.2	29.3	17.6	518.9
Total	279.6	125.1	213.4	32.3	21.8	672.1

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job. (b) Comprises persons who had a job to go to and persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 17. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS : TIME SINCE LAST JOB AND INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1986
(' 000)

	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					
Time since last job	Intended to look	Might look	Did not intend to look	Did not know	Not asked(a)	Total
MALES						
Had had a job	50.9	16.8	25.6	*	6.3	103.1
Under 12 months	29.4	5.3	*	*	6.1	45.5
Under 6 months	22.5	*	*	*	5.9	36.0
6 and under 12 months	6.8	*	*	*	*	9.5
1 and under 3 years	9.4	4.1	6.6	*	*	21.2
3 and under 5 years	5.9	} 5.9 {	4.6	*	*	13.4
5 and under 10 years	4.0		7.5	*	*	15.3
10 and under 20 years	*		*	*	*	7.0
20 years or more	*	*	*	*	*	*
Had never had a job	26.9	6.2	7.8	*	*	42.7
Total	77.8	23.0	33.4	4.8	6.8	145.8
FEMALES						
Had had a job	166.8	90.8	164.9	25.6	14.4	462.5
Under 12 months	50.7	14.6	16.3	*	11.3	96.8
Under 6 months	35.9	7.8	8.7	*	9.6	64.1
6 and under 12 months	14.9	6.7	7.6	*	*	32.7
1 and under 3 years	38.7	15.7	26.7	} 7.0 {	*	85.6
3 and under 5 years	22.7	15.3	26.6		*	68.7
5 and under 10 years	29.5	21.7	43.3		6.7	102.3
10 and under 20 years	20.9	20.0	34.4	5.3	*	81.1
20 years or more	4.4	*	17.5	*	*	28.1
Had never had a job	34.9	11.2	15.0	*	*	63.7
Total	201.8	102.0	179.9	27.5	15.0	526.3
PERSONS						
Had had a job	217.7	107.7	190.5	29.1	20.7	565.6
Under 12 months	80.1	19.9	24.9	4.8	17.4	142.3
Under 6 months	58.4	11.6	11.7	*	15.5	100.0
6 and under 12 months	21.7	8.2	8.4	*	*	42.2
1 and under 3 years	48.1	19.8	33.3	4.5	*	106.7
3 and under 5 years	28.5	17.8	31.3	*	*	82.0
5 and under 10 years	33.5	25.1	50.8	7.2	*	117.6
10 and under 20 years	22.7	21.5	37.2	6.3	*	88.1
20 years or more	4.8	*	17.9	*	*	28.8
Had never had a job	61.9	17.4	22.9	*	*	106.5
Total	279.6	125.1	213.4	32.3	21.8	672.1

(a) Comprises persons who had a job to go to and persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 18. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS(a), TIME SINCE LAST JOB AND INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1986 ('000)

	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Might look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	
Whether looked for work in the last twelve months(a)—					
Had looked for work	26.9	*	*	*	33.6
Less than 5 weeks ago	10.8	*	*	*	12.1
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	5.9	*	*	*	6.5
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	4.3	*	*	*	5.9
13 to 52 weeks ago	5.9	*	*	*	9.2
Had not looked for work	16.3	12.8	29.2	5.0	63.3
Time since last job—					
Had had a job	35.4	14.4	30.8	5.1	85.7
Under 12 months	9.1	*	*	*	14.2
Under 6 months	5.6	*	*	*	7.3
6 and under 12 months	*	*	*	*	6.9
1 and under 3 years	7.1	4.4	*	*	13.2
3 and under 5 years	6.2		4.0	*	13.1
5 and under 10 years	6.4	4.0	8.8	*	20.6
10 and under 20 years	5.2	4.1	6.6	*	15.9
20 years or more	*		5.6	*	8.8
Had never had a job	7.9	*	*	*	11.1
Total	43.3	16.4	31.8	5.4	96.8

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job.

TABLE 19. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: REASON NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, MARCH 1986 ('000)

<i>Reason not available to start work within four weeks</i>	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>					<i>Type of work preferred</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Might look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	<i>Not asked(a)</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time preference</i>	<i>No</i>	
Personal reasons	44.2	25.5	54.1	6.8	6.5	59.6	67.4	10.3	137.2
Own ill health, etc.	19.5	14.1	36.5	4.3	5.9	35.2	37.4	7.7	80.3
Studying	20.5	7.2	13.1	*	*	22.7	18.4	*	43.3
At school	16.4	6.1	9.8	*	*	15.8	16.7	*	34.8
Other educational institution	4.0	*	*	*	*	6.9	*	*	8.5
Moved house/holidays	4.3	4.2	4.5	*	*	*	11.6	*	13.6
Family reasons	17.5	16.8	60.2	*	6.9	11.7	87.6	5.0	104.4
Ill health of other than self	*	*	6.0	*	*	*	8.2	*	11.2
Unable to find suitable childcare	4.5	*	6.7	*	*	*	11.4	*	14.5
Children too young/preferred to look after children	10.6	12.1	47.6	*	6.1	6.9	68.0	*	78.6
Other reasons	4.2	*	11.5	*	*	5.4	13.4	*	19.8
Total	65.8	44.8	125.9	10.8	14.1	76.6	168.5	16.4	261.4
Males	20.7	12.4	24.3	*	*	37.9	20.6	5.9	64.4
Females	45.1	32.4	101.6	7.0	10.9	38.7	147.9	10.4	197.0

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 20. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: REASON NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS AND AGE, MARCH 1986 ('000)

<i>Reason not available to start work within four weeks</i>	<i>Age group</i>								<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-54</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>60-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	
Personal reasons	35.3	15.0	30.6	19.4	18.4	6.3	7.2	5.1	137.2
Own ill health, etc.	4.8	9.0	22.3	13.4	15.3	5.3	5.7	4.4	80.3
Studying	30.0	5.5	4.2	*	*	*	*	*	43.3
At school	28.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	34.8
Other educational institution	4.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.5
Moved house/holidays	*	*	4.1	*	*	*	*	*	13.6
Family reasons	*	14.0	57.1	23.4	5.3	*	*	*	104.4
Ill health of other than self	*	*	4.6	*	4.0	*	*	*	11.2
Unable to find suitable childcare	*	*	9.1	*	*	*	*	*	14.5
Children too young/preferred to look after children	*	11.8	46.2	17.5	*	*	*	*	78.6
Other reasons	*	*	*	5.7	5.1	*	*	*	19.8
Total	38.0	30.4	91.5	48.5	27.3	8.8	9.5	7.3	261.4
Males	19.1	4.7	9.5	9.9	8.5	*	4.8	4.1	64.4
Females	18.9	25.7	82.0	38.6	18.8	5.0	4.7	*	197.0

ADDITIONAL TABLES

The following is a list of additional tables of results from the survey which are available to users on request. These tables show a selection of estimates on an Australia-wide basis. Tables disaggregated by State/Territory and other tables may also be available. Most tables are dissected by sex.

Persons not in the labour force—

Labour force status—

- A1 Age
- A2 Family status
- Age—
- A3 Occupation in last job and family status
- A4 Reason for leaving last job and occupation in last job
- A5 Main activity and family status
- A6 Time since last job and family status
- A7 Whether wanted to work
- A8 Status of worker in last job
- A9 Full-time or part-time status in last job and family status

Persons who wanted to work—

Age—

- A10 Reason for leaving last job and status of worker in last job
- A11 Occupation in last job and full-time or part-time status in last job
- A12 Intention to look for work in the next twelve months and marital status

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force—

Main reason for not actively looking for work—

- A13 Age
- A14 Family status
- A15 Time since last job
- A16 Type of work preferred and intention to look for work in the next twelve months
- A17 Occupation in last job and family status

Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks—

All reasons for not actively looking for work—

- A18 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A19 Family status and age
- A20 Main reason for not actively looking for work, birthplace and year of arrival

Discouraged jobseekers—

- A21 Family status and intention to look for work in the next twelve months

Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks—

Reason not available to start work within four weeks—

- A22 Family status
- A23 Age
- A24 Birthplace and year of arrival

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

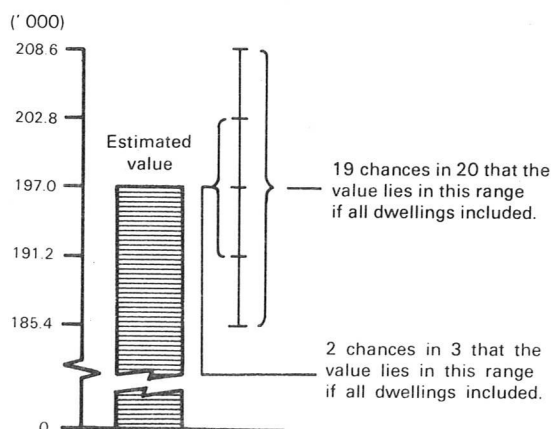
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability: that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given on the following page. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

4. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 21 shows the estimated number of females in Australia who were not in the labour force and who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks was 197,000. Since this estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 4,400 and 5,800 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 5,800 (rounded to the nearest 100). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 191,200 to 202,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 185,400 to 208,600. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



5. As can be seen from the standard error table, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the standard error table have not been published. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$\text{RSE } (x/y) = \sqrt{[\text{RSE } (x)]^2 + [\text{RSE } (y)]^2}$$

7. Considering the example from paragraph 4 above, of the 197,000 females who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks only 25,700 or 13.0 per cent were aged between 20 and 24. The standard error of 25,700 is approximately 2,400 so the relative standard error is 9.3 per cent. The relative standard error for 197,000 is 2.9 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(9.3)^2 + (2.9)^2}$ or 9.8 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (13.0 per cent) of 1.1 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who were aged between 20 and 24 and who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks was between 11.9 per cent and 14.1 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion was within the range 10.8 per cent to 15.2 per cent.

8. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{SE } (x-y) = \sqrt{[\text{SE } (x)]^2 + [\text{SE } (y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub-populations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

9. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

[illegible]

